

Application Ser. No. 09/911,243
Response to Office Action Mailed August 5, 2004

REMARKS

Responsive to the advisory action, the claims have been further amended to delete the terms "grooves" and "intersecting grooves" even though it is respectfully submitted that these are inherent in the well known structure of interdigital rollers as described in this application. Therefore, no further search is required. As explained during the interview with Examiner Luk, the use of the terms "grooves" and "intersecting grooves" was found to be helpful in responding to the official action mailed June 1, 2004 wherein the Examiner appeared to be requesting greater clarity with respect to structure and function of the claimed device to clearly define over the cited references. These points were raised during the telephone interview with Examiner Luk on August 25, 2004.

Notwithstanding, the claims have been amended to delete the objectionable terms "grooves" and "intersecting grooves", and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Neither Kezuka nor the Wenning patent which have been cited against the claims disclose interdigital rollers which serve to stretch a film or web. In fact, both references are directed to molding corrugated extrusions of plastic material. Furthermore, neither of the patents discloses or suggests a mechanical element or controller which creates slack during stretching of a polymeric film or nonwoven web to prevent breakage. Moreover, main claims

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17 and 21 require a segment of the first roller for receiving the slack or unstretched area of the film before the intersection of the rollers. At least one disc is provided for contacting the unstretched film area prior to the intersection of rollers and for pressing the film area into the roller segment. In the case of claim 21, the additional mechanical element of the controller for creating the slack or unstretched area in the film is recited. There is no disclosure or suggestion in either the Kezuka or Wenning patents any of the claimed structural limitations which provide the function recited in the claims 17-26.

The structure and functional language of main claims 17 and 21 patentably distinguish over the patents cited under 35 U.S.C. §103. The authorities set forth in applicants' last response are again relied upon.

CONCLUSION

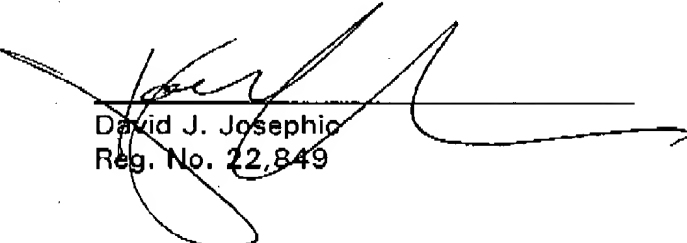
It is respectfully submitted that neither of the Kezuka or Wenning patents alone or in combination disclose or render obvious the essential elements and their function as recited in claims 17-26. In view of the above authorities and reasons advanced, claims 17-26 are patentable and their

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allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issue remains, the Examiner is encouraged to phone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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